

**Open Academy Update 9 October 2020**  
**For parents and students – please do discuss the contents with your child!**

Just as we start to think we are returning to something close to normality, the new reality appears. This week in the form of our Open Evening. Usually we would be delighted to welcome the potential new Year 7s into the Academy for tours, talks and tasters in an evening where we get to share the Academy at it's best. For safety reasons this year in terms of COVID-19 infection control we made the painful decision to move the whole event online.

Given how busy we are, running the catch-up Hubs for over 150 students every night, finding time to learn how to pull together a virtual event proved challenging. However, we did manage to produce a very honest authentic Open presentation experience – just online. Please do encourage parents or carers of potential new students to have a look if they haven't already and we are keen to hear if anyone has any further questions.

Our attendance is still close to 96% overall which is fantastic, so well done and thank you, but equally well done and thank you to those who have made the difficult decision not to send children in when they display one of the core symptoms until a test has been sought and result confirmed. So far these have all been negative, but that just highlights how important it is to continue all our efforts to keep people safe

We have seen an improvement in students sitting in smaller groups at break and lunch, which allows effective track and trace if required and virtually everyone is remembering to hand sanitise and to social distance from staff. This week I have reminded students that staff also means the dinner ladies – so I have asked students not to handle food unless they are buying it and to not lean over the counter, but to give the canteen staff the same space as other adults in the Academy.

We continue to work to keep everyone as safe as possible, but also to plan for when things become more challenging. To that end it is key that your child attempts all homework set. We are deliberately setting homework on Teams to ensure that students continue to develop their confidence using it. This will ensure that if/as/when we need to respond to the virus, the technical side of carrying on with schooling at home will be fully in place for all. It is also vital that students complete every homework set as this is the main thing teachers will be marking (not being able to collect in books). So without completing homework, students will miss out on key assessment information

Finally just a quick mention that it is World Mental Health day tomorrow with a theme of 'good mental health for all'. Undoubtedly, some are finding being back in the Academy really tough and as the half term continues I thought it might be useful to highlight this and offer a link to the young minds website – I have picked the parent support page but there are lots of helpful resources and information on here for all <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>

I hope you have as relaxing a time as possible over the weekend – Now read on for helpful information and year group news...

Jon Ford  
Principal

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## 1. Year 7 News

First off we would like say congratulations to all the Year 7 students who took part in the Virtual Open Evening filming. This went live on Wednesday and you can watch it on the website.

Another great week for achievement points the top ten this week are:

Asha Kandola  
Larisa Marginean  
Roseanne Gardner  
Leah Skipper  
Ruby Anderson  
Abi McMahon  
Katy Sutherland  
Jessie Thomas  
Lola Blossom  
Brian Bolaney

Shout outs also to the following students:

Areen, George T-Smith and Rebecca Shapcott for excellent work in History

D7 have secured an amazing 421 achievement points this week. Fantastic effort.

- We are aware that a number of students are having difficulties accessing homework. We are planning to run an after school learning Hub to support students, more information will follow once the plans have been finalised.
- There have been some issues over students bringing expensive fidget toys into school. Students should not bring valuable items into school. If a student requires a fidget aid we are able to supply blu tac.
- Behaviour at social time continues to cause concern with students continuing to playfight and be on their mobile phones. From Monday the Year 7s will have access to board games to use at break and lunchtime. We are also looking into the possibility of other activities, dodgeball was on today at lunchtime and if successful will be on every Friday week A.
- From Monday, any mobile phones being used inappropriately in lessons, will be removed, put into a plastic wallet and locked into the safe for parents to come and collect.
- At lesson change over students should be able to get to their next lessons within 3 minutes, if students arrive to lessons late then the register may be marked late.

Every morning a uniform check is carried out. Can we please remind parents/carers about uniform:

- Girls can wear plain black trousers or skirts which **MUST** be knee-length.
- Plain black, flat shoes which can be polished – no trainers, logos, high heels, boots or backless shoes.
- Shirts must be tucked in.
- Ties done up correctly with the top button of a shirt done up.

Any student coming into the academy in inappropriate uniform may be provided with an appropriate item to wear in the academy for that day.

If for any reason students are unable to wear appropriate uniform please contact the year office to discuss.

Mrs Hewitt-Coleman - Head of Year 7  
Mrs Lamb Assistant - Head of Year 7

## 2. Year 8 News

- Big congratulations to our new prefect team who include Ella Ramm, Ariya Rashid, Mayling Thomas, Lois Lincoln, Lucy Waterfield, Xylia Sparkes, Hollie Smith, Liliana Read and Brooke Craven-Andrews! They are excitedly working on plans to make Halloween spooky at Open Academy, including a design a scary door competition for our tutor groups!
- Our attendance is on the up again so thank you to everyone who has made that happen! We have re-started our reward system for students who are achieving 100% attendance so look out for those £5 Amazon vouchers and achievement points going on the SIMS Parent app!
- Homework is now being set for all students in a range of subjects as we settle back into school life – please encourage students to complete their assignments as this provides us with valuable information whilst books are being quarantined. All homework is being set on Teams and students should notify staff/IT department if there are any issues accessing the work – students are, of course, very welcome to attend Hub after school any day of the week if this gives them the access they need.
- A note about lunch cards - please can you remind students that if they have lost their card they can get a first replacement from the IT Department with no charge, but any further lost cards will be charged £1 each and the canteen staff may refuse to serve them if they don't have a card. It's also been noted that there is also a lot of wasted food where students are reaching the till and have not got enough money on their account to pay, so getting into the habit of checking their account first should be encouraged.
- Finally, shout outs to Olivia Legan, J Lawson, Xylia Sparkes, Anastasja Brikule, Sienna Brown, Izaak Scott, Gemma Smith, Scarlet Bush, Lily Turner, Jake Tyler, Elisha Jones and Adam Lowe for earning over 20 achievements each this week for exceptional work and behaviour – very well done indeed!

Miss Lines – Head of Year 8  
Ms Moss and Mrs Smith – Assistant Heads of Year 8

## 3. Year 9 News

This week Year 9 have been active and since we have been back have participated in the Couch to 5K challenge. The following students achieved the 5K this week. Well done to: Samuel Yellop, Jake Folkes, Corey Sorrento, Robbie Ruff, Toby Thompson, Kelsey Holman, James

Hoye, Ollie King, Luke Copping, Bradley Copping, Joe Sanderson, Harry Robinson, Dalia Rosca, Ryan Howes, Leefna Silva, Hayden Cobbett and Atanas Kyurkchiev.

The following students showed excellent effort towards the Couch to 5K: Kasia Jolly, Ashton Buck, Angelos Chatzopoulos and Josh Humphrey.

Most of Year 9 have watched an assembly from Mrs Pearsall about the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. All students should have been emailed a link to the scheme, if not Mrs Pearsall will have paper copies of the forms. Please do not worry about the deadline it has been extended. This is an excellent opportunity for students and always good fun.

Attendance at Hub sessions has also been good, we are really impressed with those that stay that extra hour (on top of a full day of learning) to take advantage of the recovery curriculum. Every session attended will make a huge difference when it comes to the summer exams. Please continue to encourage your child and praise them for their attendance.

There has been a whopping total of 538 achievement points given to Year 9 this week. Well done to you all. Several teachers have commented this week about how well the Year 9s are studying in class this week especially. The students with the most achievement points this week are: Torri Ashton, Angelos Chatzopoulos, Katie Edge, James Hoye, Ella Iftimie-Hau, Kasia Jolly, Lola Pauling, Dalia Rosca, Leefna Silva, Toby Thompson and Samuel Yellop. There are lots of students that just miss out on the top spots each week, but we wanted to reassure you that we know who you are, we are impressed by how hard you work, and keep up the good work.

There will be a non school uniform day on the last day of term. All money raised will go to the Soul Church Foundation. Please bring in £1 if you are able to.

Homework is now set on Microsoft Teams. All students should be confident now with accessing their Microsoft accounts. If there are any problems then please let myself or Mrs Roe know.

Miss Ling our Librarian has also shown all tutor groups how to access library books. Please encourage your child to talk to us or Miss Ling if they are struggling to use this system. There is always paper copies outside the library to request books too. There is always lots going on in the library e.g poetry competition.

The Christian Union and Social Clubs are now up and running on Thursday lunchtimes for Years 8 and 9. Full details will be explained in tutor time.

Mr Lambert - Head of Year 9

Mrs Roe - Assistant Head of Year 9

#### 4. Year 10 News

Another great week for Year 10. There's been some hard work by our leadership team this week with our Reading Ambassadors working on a reading incentive to start after half-term, so we are looking forward to that.

We are aware that students are getting tired now and are looking forward to half-term. I have been so proud of how, despite their tiredness, they are still doing their best and working hard – this is a real testament to their resilience and work ethic.

Our achievement point total for this week is 165 and our top five students are:

Jack Teasdale	9
Mackenzie Culley	7
Katie Lambert-Sharp	7
Faith Berry	7
Sugar Chapman	6

Keep up the great work!

Mrs Clayton – Head of Year 10

Mrs Roberts – Assistant Head of Year 10

#### 5. Year 11 News

This has been our most difficult week back with students becoming increasingly tired and aware of the educational goals ahead of them. Attendance at Hub has seen a bit of a dip as has some behaviour standards.

The government educational guidelines state that all Year 11 students will sit exams as normal in the summer. At present they have not given us details if the exams will be delayed so we must work to the usual deadlines. Hub sessions provide valuable teacher contact time for students to catch up, embed accurate knowledge and revision in preparation for their PPEs and summer exams.

We are preparing evidence folders for every student, in every subject. These will include PPE grades, in class assessments and work from Hub sessions. This is in case we have to give any centre assessed grades. It is therefore vitally important that students attend school and as many Hub sessions as possible so we can prepare them to reach their full potential.

The prefects have had their first full meeting and are now in working groups. This is a very exciting time and we will support them in their roles to improve the Open Academy experience and their personal leadership skills.

Achievement points - top students:

Chantelle Blythe  
Ellie Chapman  
Lucy Muscrop  
Lottie Sanderson  
Lola Thompson  
Cara Tipple

### Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Following an assembly with Years 9 and 10, students have been offered the opportunity to enrol in the Bronze Award. A form has been emailed to students. Enrolment is £22 (we can apply to the DofE for free places for students who have free school meals). Other costs involved are the expeditions which will take place between April and July. At the moment we are not sure if we will be able to camp overnight, but we can still do most aspects of the expedition safely. The maximum cost of the expeditions is £25 x 2 expeditions. If we can't camp this could be reduced.

Following an assembly with Year 12 and 13 students have been offered the opportunity to enrol in the Silver Award. A form will be emailed on request or a paper copy given. Enrolment is £22 (we can apply to the DofE for free places for students who have free school meals) Other costs involved are the expeditions which will take place between April and July, at the moment we are not sure if we will be able to camp overnight but we can still do most aspects of the expedition safely. The maximum cost of the expeditions are £45 x 2 expeditions. If we can't camp this could be reduced. (The cost is higher for silver because we need to travel further and it is 3 days rather than 2).

Mrs Pearsall – Head of Year 11

Mrs Middleton – Assistant Head of Year 11

### 6. Sixth Form News

First of all, I will be holding a **virtual assembly via Teams for YEAR 13 ONLY on Tuesday next week (13 October) at 8.40am**. Students must be in their tutor rooms at this time. If your child is a student that has had authorisation to work from home on Tuesday morning, it is vitally important that they still log onto Teams from home via a phone or laptop. This session will be about UCAS and the personal statement. Even if they are not planning to go down the university route, they must still attend as there will be things that are relevant for them.

Next a plea from our Year 12 NCS students. There are three events that will be run over the next week or so:

**Care Packages** - The first one is a scheme where Year 12 are collecting donations in order to make care packages. Please see the poster below for more info of what is being collected. This is a really important cause, very close to my heart, so please dig deep! Feel free to leave donations with me in my classroom and I will forward them on. All of the items can be bought from Poundland so please dig deep this weekend and add an extra item to your basket.

### Care packages for the homeless

#### What we need:

- Toothbrushes & tooth paste
- Hand sanitiser
- Long lasting food
- Roll on deodorant
- Wipes
- Socks
- Gloves
- Plasters
- Lip balm



Money donations will also be used in order to buy resources for the packages.

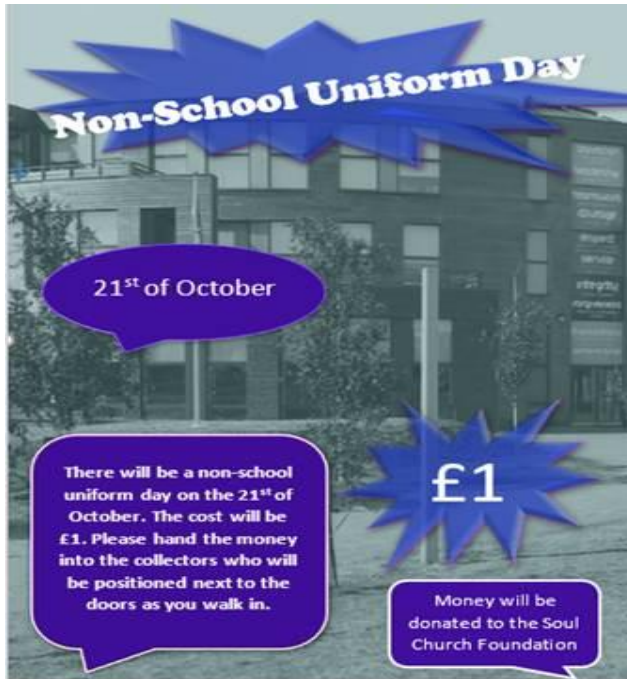


Last collections will be on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

Every Wednesday and Friday money donations will be collected during form time.

Drop the items off in the box near reception.

**Non Uniform Day** – a non school uniform day will be held on the last day of term. All money raised will go to the Soul Church Foundation. Students will need to please pay £1 to their tutors on the day.



In other wonderful news, our wonderful football coach Cedric Anselin featured in the EDP this week as he is going to be doing a skydive on Saturday, 10 October which is World Mental Health Day. He has been raising money for the Norfolk & Waveney Mind Charity. This is a charity that is very close to Cedric's heart, so we are all super proud of him! <https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/former-norwich-city-player-to-skydive-for-mental-health-charity-1-6870417>

On the subject of football, we are so proud of Denham Oliver who got his first call up with Kirkley and Pakefield Football Club 1st team. Denham played away at Long Melford last night in a Cup game. They lost on penalties but Denham saved one. Well done Denham! Superstar!

The Sixth Form areas now boast a brand new shiny fridge and very soon a kettle. Students can bring in anything to add to the steadily growing display of teas/coffee/hot chocolates. Please can sixth formers remember that it is their responsibility to keep all Sixth Form areas clean and tidy at all times. Please can they also remember that this is a privilege and as such can be closed if we get any complaints about how students conduct themselves. We have had to speak to a small number of students recently about their behaviour.

Have a great weekend!

Mrs Molloy  
Head of Sixth Form

## 7. Careers

Our 'Sector of the Month' for October is Digital Creative and ICT. This is a vital and innovative sector in the Eastern region with a current workforce of 24,000 and plans to create another 10,000 tech roles by 2024 so potentially very appealing to our students. Open Academy is lucky to have Enterprise Adviser, Ben de Tarrar from Aviva working with us and this week he has called on a member of the 'Learning and Knowledge' team at the company to write a blog about digital roles at the company. Please take a look at this in the attachments. For those students who are interested in wider aspects of the sector, a good way to get started is to look at City College's apprenticeship programmes in Digital Creative Media and Norwich University of the Arts who are leaders in degree courses covering Arts, Design, Technology and Media. <https://www.nua.ac.uk/>

Ms Caroline Davies  
Careers Facilitator and Assistant Head of Sixth Form

## 8. Next steps after GCSEs

If your child is in Year 11, you and they might be considering next steps after GCSEs. There are different qualifications your child might be interested in, here are just some below:

**A levels** – Your child will usually choose 3 subjects (or might also take a mixture of A levels and BTECs). There is a huge range of subjects to choose from, including subjects like Psychology and Law, which are not usually offered at GCSE. They are usually assessed in a similar way to GCSEs.

**BTECs** – Your child can either choose an Extended BTEC, which is the equivalent to 3 A levels, or a BTEC which is equivalent to 1 A level. Again, there is a huge range to choose from, including subjects like Health and Social Care, Sport and Construction. The course is split into units, and students are assessed in different ways within the units – it might be through an assignment, practical activity or exam.

**T Levels** – T levels are new qualifications which offer a mix of classroom learning and an industry placement for at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days). The areas you can study T levels in are increasing each year, and currently includes Digital Production and Education and Childcare. Again, these are equivalent to 3 A levels.

**Apprenticeships** – These are available at different levels. We will discuss apprenticeships in more detail in the next couple of weeks. An apprenticeship is where your child is employed by a company. They work for 80% of their time, and receive training 20% of the time.

To find out more about these and other qualifications, a great place to start is [www.helpyouchoose.org](http://www.helpyouchoose.org). On this website there is information about qualifications and a list of sixth form and college providers in Norfolk, so you and your child can find out exactly what is available. If your child knows what they would like to do after sixth form or college, it is worth checking which type of qualification and subject would help them with this. For example, if they would like to go to university, every university website has a list of entry requirements. These will list any subjects your young person needs to study at sixth form or college.

If you or your child has questions, or would like to know more, I am contactable via Ms Davies.

Lucy Reynolds-McKay  
Higher Education Champion - Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach

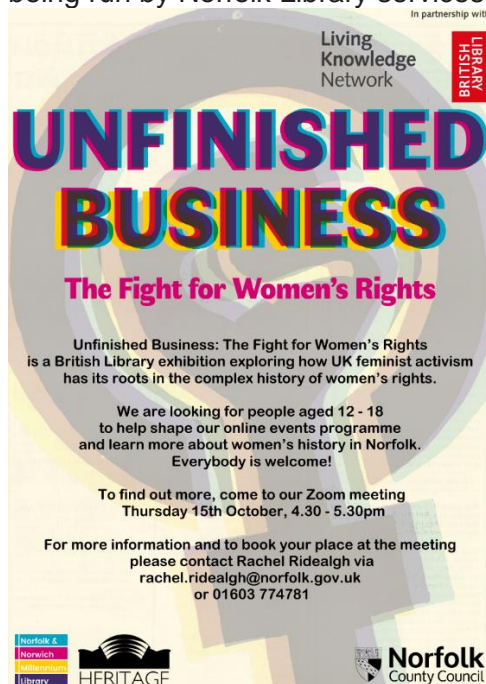


## 9. Library News & Updates

The library is currently running two competitions. The first is our annual poetry writing competition in celebration of National Poetry Day. This year we are asking students to write a poem on the theme of vision. They could paint a picture with words, talk about their vision of the future or come up with their own ideas. Whatever they decide, we can't wait to read their entries.

Our second competition has been launched this week to coincide with Libraries Week. For this competition we are asking students to design a library card with a bookish theme. Details about both competitions can be found attached, but students can come and see me at any time for more information. The deadline for both competitions is next Friday, 16 October.

We would also like to share details with you of an exciting opportunity for students aged 12-18, being run by Norfolk Library services:



***Unfinished Business*** is a British library exhibition which explores women's rights and activism within the UK, soon to be hosted digitally by Norfolk Library and Information Service.

The Norfolk Heritage Centre Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library are working together on a programme of online events and are looking for young people aged 12-18 who would like to take part and help shape what's on offer, while learning lots more about women's history in Norfolk. There's an introductory zoom session **on Thursday, 15th October**, from **4.30-5.30pm** and all are welcome; for more information and to take part, please email Rachel Ridealgh, Community Librarian for Local Studies: [rachel.ridealgh@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.ridealgh@norfolk.gov.uk)

We would also like to remind students that they can request and borrow school library books using our Online Library Catalogue. I have attached a user guide to our Click and Collect service for library books. If students are having any difficulties accessing their library account or need help reserving a book, they should come and see me during break or lunch.

Finally, students who would like to use the library after school/ attend an after school club must sign up in advance. [Please click here for this week's sign-up sheet.](#)

Miss Ling  
Librarian

## 10. Attendance

Well done to year group 8 and to tutor groups 1213LWK, R9AED, SRB8EOK and SRB7EOK for having the highest attendance for week ending 2 October 2020. Well done all!

Attendance Lottery – many congratulations to Jasiah Brown, Year 7, who has won a £5 Amazon voucher for having 100% attendance for week ending 2 October 2020. Well Done Jasiah!

For week 28.9.2020 to 2.10.2020, we had an amazing 445 students who achieved 100% attendance from Year 7 to 11. We also had 46 students in our Sixth Form who also achieved 100% attendance. This is an increase from last week. Well done to all those students!



We would be grateful if you could let the Academy know if:

- Your child has a suspected case of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- Your child is self-isolating due to awaiting for test results either for themselves or a member of the family

Reminder - Just a reminder that If your child is absent from the Academy, please contact Reception or email [student.absence@open-academy.org.uk](mailto:student.absence@open-academy.org.uk) to inform us of the reason for their absence before 8.30am, if possible.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Ganson  
Attendance Officer

## 11. Chaplain's Reflection

### Thankfulness

"When I started counting my blessings, my whole life turned around."

### Willie Nelson

This week I want to share the following story with you. Its author is unknown. One day, a professor entered his classroom and asked his students to prepare for a surprise test. They all waited anxiously at their desks for the exam to begin. The professor handed out the exams with the text facing down, as usual. Once he handed them all out, he asked the students to turn over the papers.

To everyone's surprise, there were no questions, just a black dot in the centre of the paper. The professor, seeing the expression on everyone's faces, told them the following:

"I want you to write about what you see there."

The students, confused, got started on the inexplicable task. At the end of the class, the professor took all the exams, and started reading each one of them out loud in front of all the students. All of them, with no exception, defined the black dot, trying to explain its position in the centre of the sheet. After all had been read, the classroom silent, the professor started to explain:

"I'm not going to grade you on this, I just wanted to give you something to think about. No one wrote about the white part of the paper. Everyone focused on the black dot."

The same thing happens with us, a lot of the time we focus on the negative and the problems that we have rather than the things that are positive and the blessings in our life.

The Bible encourages us by saying "Whatever things are true, whatever things are honest, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is any praise, think on these things". It then goes on to say that if we do this then the God of peace will be with us. Let's be encouraged this week to seek out the good, take our eyes off the black dots and see the blessings around us.

You are all in my thoughts and prayers. God bless.

Mark Pimlott  
Chaplain